

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

## *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Parkinson's disease is a progressive , neurological disorder that affects people of all ages with the average age of onset being 60, and 15 percent of those are diagnosed before age 50; and,

*Whereas*, More individuals suffer from Parkinson's disease than Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and Lou Gehrig's disease combined; and,

*Whereas*, The symptoms of Parkinson's disease – tremor, rigidity, slowness, poor movement, and difficulty with balance and speaking are often mistaken for other conditions, especially in the younger adult or as a normal part of the aging process; and,

*Whereas*, Parkinson's disease takes an enormous emotional, psychological, and physical toll on those with the disease and a similar toll on caregivers, families, and friends of the patients of the disease; and,

*Whereas*, Anti-Parkinson drugs can only control some of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease for a short period of time, and, in many cases, cause disabling side effects; and,

*Whereas*, Surgical procedures often offer only temporary lessening of certain symptoms and are not a substitute for drugs, and the cause, prevention, or cure of Parkinson's disease are still not known; and,

*Whereas*, Increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for Parkinson's disease, and to provide more effective support programs and services to Parkinson's disease patients, their caregivers, and families; and,

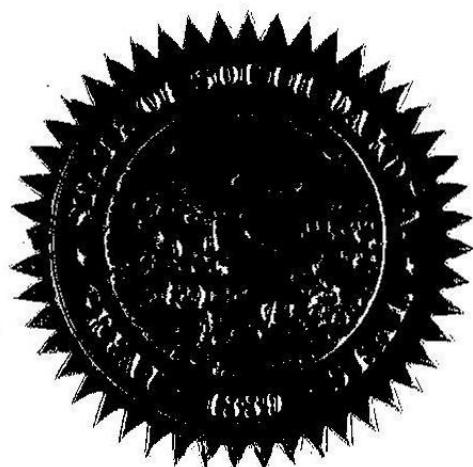
*Whereas*, In 1996, the Parkinson's Association of South Dakota was incorporated as a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people touched by Parkinson's disease; and,

*Whereas*, April has traditionally been proclaimed as World Wide Parkinson's Awareness Month for all to recognize the need for more research and help in dealing with the devastating effects of Parkinson's disease:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as

## *PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH*

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

A handwritten signature of M. Michael Rounds in black ink.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

*Attest:*

A handwritten signature of Chris Nelson in black ink.

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State